

University of Alaska Southeast

# The Whalesong

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## WEEEEEEEEED Zero Tolerance Policy Instituted at Housing

By Rosa Fonseca  
Whalesong Staff

Where there's smoke there's fire. But where does the fire come from? Banfield Hall? Impossible. That building is substance free, which means that you are not supposed to smoke, drink or do drugs. Not even innocent incense is allowed there. But there have been numerous reports recently about smoking and drinking by residents.

While it may be natural for young people to challenge authority, there are reasonable limits and consequences to this behavior. The system of dealing with problems at housing is very reasonable.

"We typically handle problems in-house and don't get the police involved, unless in extreme circumstances," said Amy Bridgers, the Banfield Hall director, "but if a student is caught doing drugs or drinking for the first time, he or she has to attend an alcohol and drug class, which is at an inconvenient time, Saturday morning, but on the other hand, is very informative."

Since some students have challenged the system, a zero tolerance policy was instituted against marijuana. According to Bridgers, the ventilation system is interlocked so all the rooms are connected. If someone smokes pot in a room, the smoke is spread and detected.

The problem was getting out of control because, along with the frequent reports of residents smoking marijuana in the rooms, they heard things like, "All we get is a slap on the wrist." This made Amy Bridgers and David Blair, the Residence Life Manager, take a firmer position on the issue.

A formal letter was addressed to all the residents informing them that any activity related to drugs, such as selling, using, or possessing, would be subject to the usual sanctions of calling the police, contacting the resident's parents or guardians, and/or having the housing agreement terminated immediately, without a refund.

Concerning students' right to privacy, the policy is still legal because the residents who are underage had their parents sign the housing contract, Bridgers explained.

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## The University of Alaska flexes its muscles at UA Trade Show

By Emily Wescott  
Whalesong Staff

The University of Alaska Trade Show, an event that highlighted the multitude of programs offered by the UA system, was held March 20 at Centennial Hall.

In an attempt to convince legislators and the public of the UA system's value in Alaska, students, staff and citizens proudly staffed a throng of booths, each featuring an educational program offered by the University of Alaska. From the College Connection program, a program



Photo by Scott Foster

UAS temporary tattoos were a popular keepsake at the Trade Show booths. The Trade Show booths were staffed by people who wanted to show legislators the UA system's value in Alaska.

designed to bridge the gap between high school students and Alaska's university system, to our own Master of Public Administration program, attendees were given the opportunity to learn of educational options in Alaska. The goal of the show was to muster community and legislative support for the university in the hopes that we will get full funding from the state budget this year and every year in the future.

Accompanied by music provided by Steve Tada on violin and Dale Wygant on accordion, UA President Mark Hamilton circulated throughout the crowd, answering questions and discussing university issues with anyone interested. When asked about the value of the trade show, Hamilton expressed his excitement at having such a diverse crowd involved.

"I think it's a marvelous opportunity to show off just a small portion of what the university offers for the citizens of the state and the development of the state itself," Hamilton said. "We've had a lot of folks through from junior high school kids - which is exciting, because you need to touch people early - to various elected officials."

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## Annual Humanities Conference coming soon to Juneau

By Kim Porter  
Whalesong Staff

Love will be in the air April 5-6 at the UAS campus. Students and community members from Southeast Alaska will participate in the third annual Humanities Conference in Juneau. The theme for this year, "Love," was suggested by Rod Landis, assistant professor of English of UAS Ketchikan.

"We began the conference for undergraduate UAS students so that they would have the

opportunity to listen to and interact with peers, other faculty, community members, and local and regional experts on provocative themes and 'core texts,'" said Sue Koester, Humanities Conference director. "We also wanted to offer the Juneau community/participants an opportunity to meet our students and faculty and see our beautiful campus and its resources."

Past conferences in Juneau have included a performance of Robert Frost's poem "Home

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# Gates foundation contributes \$40 million to schools

By Linda Shaw  
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE - The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation recently added \$40 million to its drive to shrink the American high school, this time with a new twist.

The foundation will announce plans to help open 70 new or redesigned schools across the nation that not only will have no more than 400 students but will offer students the chance to earn both a high-school diploma and two years of college credit in as little as four years.

The accelerated schools will be aimed at students from disadvantaged backgrounds, with the goal of raising their graduation and college-attendance rates. In addition to Washington state, where the focus will be on Native American youth, the schools are planned for New York, California, Ohio, Utah and a number of Southeastern states.

The Gates Foundation, the largest philanthropic organization in the world, decided last year to dedicate its efforts in education to changing large, anonymous high schools into small, personalized institutions.

It has given \$300 million, mostly in start-up funds or seed money, to promote breaking up big schools into small, independent pieces, or creating new, small schools. In Washington, it's already working to design or create about two dozen such schools, including four to six that will be modeled after a California charter school called High Tech High.

Smaller schools don't guarantee success, but the foundation strongly believes they are one necessary step to

improve high schools.

The latest grants are one more way the foundation hopes to dramatically alter the educational fortunes of students who wander through high school on the general track, taking less-rigorous classes with little hopes of attending college.

"This isn't so much about acceleration. It's about helping disadvantaged students find success in high school and college," said Tom Vander Ark, the foundation's executive director of education. "The fact that it happens sooner and cheaper is a great byproduct for many, but it's a byproduct."

The grants also are an effort to better link high school with higher education, he said. "There are a lot of people heading in this direction, and there's a lot of innovation happening in the space between high school and college," Vander Ark said.

Antioch University Seattle, chosen because of its experience working with Washington tribes, will lead the effort to develop the eight schools in Washington. It will receive a five-year, \$3 million grant to help redesign six existing public schools with all or a high percentage of Native American students. Two new schools will be created. The sites have yet to be chosen.

In California, the National Council of La Raza will create or redesign 14 schools, most of which will be charter schools.

In New York, plans call for 20 schools coordinated by the Middle College High School Consortium.

SECME, formerly called Southeastern Consortium for Minorities in Engineering, will work to establish eight schools in the Southeast, on or adjacent to colleges with which it has affiliations. Many of those colleges are historically black institutions.

The KnowledgeWorks Foundation is the grantee in Ohio, and the Utah Partnership Foundation will work in that state. The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation will work with colleges and universities to start nine small high schools and redesign one existing program. Jobs for the Future will be the lead coordinator for what's being called the "Early College Initiative."

Affluent and high-achieving students have had the opportunity to earn college credits in high school for a long time, Vander Ark said, through advanced-placement courses and programs such as Running Start, which allows qualified Washington students to take community-college courses for college and high-school credit.

Vander Ark said he hopes the new schools will help more students do the same. "The path will be much more well-defined," he said. "It won't be left to individual students with little adult help to navigate two complex systems."

Some of the new schools covered by today's announcement will bring college professors into the high schools to teach courses. In others, students will attend courses at colleges. Some will focus on the liberal arts, others on high-tech.

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## Trade show continued from page 1

The most fun of it is to walk around and talk to the individuals who are behind this who are actual practitioners of the educational program or the research program that they're sort of advertising, because they're excited and they're proud. In many cases they're students."

In fact, many Fairbanks and Anchorage student government members, as well as the UA Student Regent Joe Hardenbrook, spent their spring break in Juneau to show their support for the UA system. This show of dedication by university students is invaluable in showing the community the great value of the university system.

"Their testimony of the value of this education and of this great opportunity we have at the University of Alaska is priceless," Hamilton said.

University of Alaska Southeast food service provided delectable pastries for the public. Coordinating their efforts was Director of Housing, Activities and Food Service and Student Government Advisor, Tish Griffin. She took time out from supervising the UAS-staffed goody table to comment on the trade show.

"I think the trade show's a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase the whole UA system," Griffin said, "and what a great opportunity for our community, our students and our legislators to come in and take a look at a lot of different programs that those initiatives have funded that they really don't know about."

Public exposure, coupled with strong staff, faculty and student support, will hopefully convince legislators and citizens of the critical nature of their decision regarding allocation of the state budget. If the UA system is not fully funded, programs, staff and faculty will be cut. This could mean that enrollment may decline because of the lack of services available to students. Hamilton will do whatever he can do to avoid that scenario.

"We're shameless; we're willing to use pastry as a draw for (legislators) to come in here and look at what we do," Hamilton said. "I'm very happy with this."

## Weed continued from page 1

"The Zero Tolerance Policy came about so we would have something to do rather than just say, don't do it, or give them a slap on the wrist, as they argued." And she added, "We are trying to do everything we can to make life here as academic as possible. If students need to do drugs or drink all the time, this is not the right place for them because it is disruptive for themselves and for the other residents."

When asked about the strength carried on the terms "zero" and "tolerance", Pam Webster, student counselor said, "the subject is tricky and there has to be dialog."

Paul Kraft, dean of students, has ideas on how to make this dialog happen.

Drawing on his past experience in teaching substance abuse classes, he wants to change the focus from punishment to an open and healthy discussion, which results in a useful insight.

"It's interesting to ask students - how would you run this zoo?" Kraft says. "Their ideas are sometimes more radical than any rules they have to follow."

He wants to start students thinking about the role of alcohol and drugs in their lives, not as a moral issue, but in health and safety contexts, and help them base their decision on whether it fits their academic goals.

"Mood altering drugs and chemicals all will have a negative impact on student academic success. Whether it's getting drunk or getting stoned three nights a week, they are going to struggle and probably fail. You can't consciously make a decision that you know is against the law, and then complain when consequences come down. That's part of being adults," said Kraft.

Amey Bridgers concluded that no one can stop students from using drugs and alcohol. "What we are saying is don't do it here. That's what the zero tolerance is all about. Now there is a consequence."

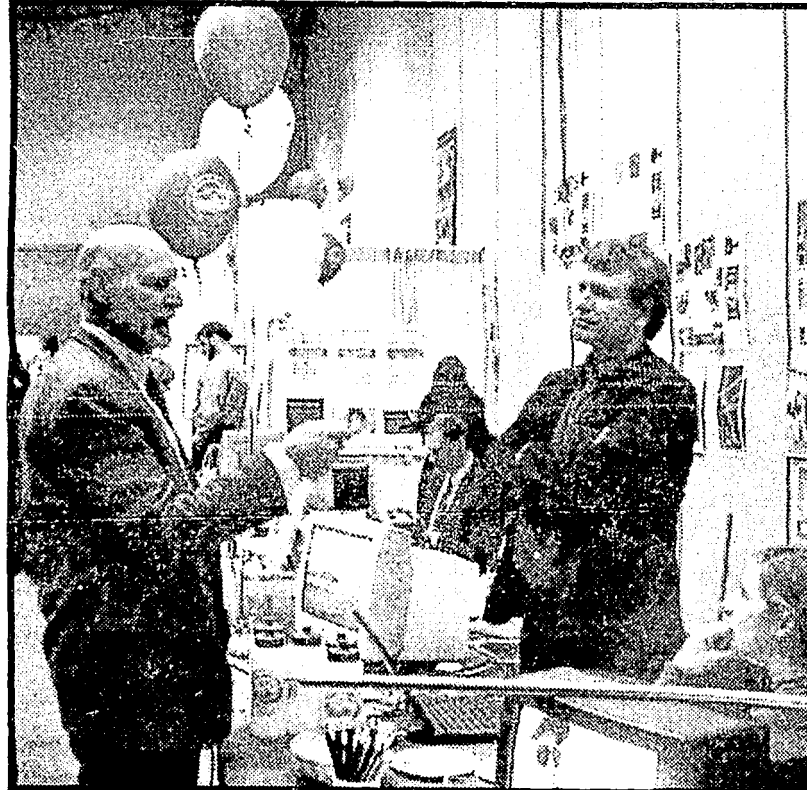


Photo by Scott Foster  
UA President Mark Hamilton (left) toured the trade show, talking with people from UAA, UAF, and UAS.



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# EDITORIAL & OPINION

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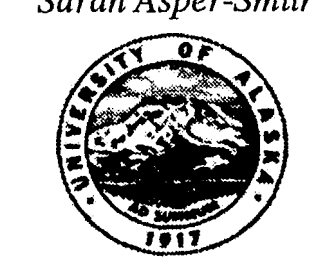
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The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, *The Whalesong*, is a free bi-monthly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members.

*The Whalesong* will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas.

The staff of *The Whalesong* values freedom of expression and encourages reader response. *The Whalesong* editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

## Letters to the Editor:

Greetings, all...

I am a graduate student at UAF working on a master's degree in Marine Biology (yes, it's wierd studying the ocean this far inland). I'm writing to try to drum up interest in the student body (however small the fraction may be) for a new statistics class for science majors, especially those in the biological sciences. Here at Fairbanks students in Marine Biology, Oceanography, Environmental Science, and Biology are encouraged (but not required) to take what we call BIOL 680 (crosslisted with STAT 680), Analytical Techniques in Biology. My motives in doing this are not purely selfish, although I'd REALLY like to take this, my last class, somewhere actually on the coast (what a concept). I am certain that with the importance placed upon this class on our campus that students in related fields at your school would also stand to benefit from such a class. Basically it involves various statistical techniques geared at analyzing your own data, not just hypothetical data sets devised by your statistics professor. Obviously, then, this class would benefit graduate students who are working on their research/thesis projects and who are seeking guidance on how to analyze all that data, but undergrads planning on pursuing graduate work (or working on senior theses) could rest assured that when the time comes they, too, would have this asset at their disposal. So, I'm just tossing out the idea. Anyone interested in a course description can check out UAF's website or feel free to email me if you want (but no hate mail toward nerds, please). I know it sounds like hell, but I think it could be a valuable experience.

Thanks for your time—Judy Hamilton

Dear Editor,

My name is Mike and I am from Illinois. Currently I am a junior at the University of Iowa studying hydraulic engineering. I am writing in regards to a profile of a girl I saw on the internet. I don't know much about her, but I am determined to find her. All I know about her is that she is from Arlington Heights, Illinois, is 18, and attends the University of Alaska Southeast. The only name I have to go by is Carter6987. Maybe I'm crazy, but my heart is telling me not to give up on contacting her.

I haven't always had this type of determination for finding love. I guess I have recently taken a new perspective on life. Two years ago, my life began turning upside down. I started to notice that I was having trouble with my eyes. To make a long story a bit shorter, it turned out that I had a brain tumor that was causing me to go blind. For the past year now I have been receiving chemotherapy. It hasn't been a fun ride, but all the suffering I have gone through has definitely been worth it. By the grace of God I have gained my vision back. It is nothing short of a miracle. This experience has allowed me to view the world differently. Every day I thank God for bringing my vision back.

This experience has really taught me to listen to my heart and to follow my dreams. In the past, I might have just given up on something like this. But now I feel like I need to contact this girl no matter how much trouble I have to go through. I would give anything just to talk to her.

I would be very grateful if you could help me find her. Maybe you could put an article in the paper for me. My email address is [mstone@engineering.uiowa.edu](mailto:mstone@engineering.uiowa.edu). I would really love to hear from her.

Sincerely,  
Michael Stone

## The Dailey Word (?!)

By Rob Dailey  
Whalesong Staff

### TV news is almost as good as Baywatch.

Like many Americans, I get my news from the TV. At any time of the day I can turn on a news channel and get real-time information about the world. Never mind that the news might be biased, slick, and packaged; I care less and less about the news anyway. I watch because the anchors are hot.

Why else would TV even *have* anchors if it weren't to attract guys like me?

Maybe when TV news was born, the desk anchor really was necessary. Back then they didn't always have something to put on the screen. Pictures of news events were scarce, and footage was almost nonexistent. TV news essentially offered nothing more to the news-seeker than the luxury of having someone else read to you.

But now with actual video footage of just about any news event or scene in the world, what purpose do on-camera anchors serve? They could just as easily *show* footage of the news and voice over.

That would be the most effective way to transmit the news, yes, but what about guys like me?

Let's say I'm walking though the cafeteria here at UAS, and as always I glance up at the TV. It's tuned to the news, and it's obvious nothing major has happened in the world, so I decide to walk past, ignore it. But then a really hot blond comes on the screen, sexy, and before I think, "Wasn't she on *NYPD Blue*?" she smiles and begins to mouth words to me, important stuff it suddenly seems.

So I sit down and watch her for a few minutes, and before I know it I've watched a couple of commercials, too. And they got me again!

With this happening to me so often, I decided to do a little informal study on the big three, CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News. I found that almost always the anchor desk is shared by a man and a woman; usually the woman is on camera more; and without fail the woman is friggin' hot.

This may not be scientific, but it's enough for me. Now I don't walk through the cafeteria as much when I'm in a hurry. But at least I know where to turn during those times I miss *Baywatch*.

## Letters to the Editor

The Whalesong gladly accepts letters to the editor. Letters may not exceed 300 words, and may be edited for length, clarity, and grammar. Letters must be signed and include a means of contact for verification. Send your letters to 11120 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801, [whalesong@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:whalesong@uas.alaska.edu), by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Mourtant Bldg.



# Insurance rates: credit where credit is due?

By Sen. Kim Elton  
Whalesong Contributor

Some phrases make a person cringe. "Male pattern baldness" is especially chilling to me. "Your insurance premium is being adjusted" makes others shudder.

And many Alaskans are shuddering because their premiums skyrocket even though they've never, ever, submitted a home or auto claim. Premiums now can rise if you divorce, lose a job, have "too many" credit cards, or get hammered by medical expenses.

Why is that, you ask? Well, it's because your auto and home premium rate isn't tied to claims anymore, it's tied to a "credit score." You can pay your home and auto insurance premiums for years and never make a claim, but if you have a business setback your insurance premium can go up.

Big insurance companies won't tell how they score credit. A score just kinda happens when your credit report is run through a secret formula.

Here's what we do know about credit scores: they're lower if you practice some religions ("neither a borrower nor a lender be"); they're lower if you are a depression-era senior who looks askance at credit; and they're lower if you practice "Bush credit" instead of "city credit". Divorce, medical bills, seasonal employment, job loss, or stock losses also can lower scores and raise premiums.

What we don't know is why Alaskans who don't believe in buying on time but who do have a

good driving record must pay higher auto premiums. What we don't know is why a wife who divorces a bum but has a good driving record pays a lot more for car insurance. What we don't know is why in some cases a couple can qualify for a home loan yet have a credit score that precludes homeowner's insurance.

Auto and home insurance companies say there's a strong correlation between claims and credit scores. But they won't share the data that shows why with state regulators or with customers. They don't even share data in the face of independent studies that show credit scoring hurts the elderly, the young, ethnic and religious minorities, and residents of fish and farm communities where you're "carried" until the season commences.

Insurance company lobbyists do claim credit scoring lowers auto and home premiums for those with good credit (raise your hand if *your* premiums have dropped). But the same lobbyists won't explain why the first major insurance company in Alaska to use credit scoring actually has raised rates 19 percent in the five years since they began credit scoring.

One Alaska agent, who for obvious reasons wants to remain anonymous, cited two Alaska customers who drive the same make, model and year car. Their driving profile is the same. Their credit profile and accident history are not. One, a male with a DWI accident but a good credit score, pays \$555 every six months for auto insurance. The

female pays \$1,007 every six months. She has no accidents and no violations and didn't miss a premium payment. But her credit score was lower.

The insurance industry is one of the few industries still subject to state regulation, and state legislatures are focusing on credit scoring. In Idaho, insurance agent and GOP state Sen. John Goedde has legislation restricting the use of credit scoring. He says the biggest credit score losers "are the elderly, the very young, and members of minority groups." State Rep. Bill Deal, another Idaho Republican and insurance agent, says using credit scores to judge existing customers is "very inequitable and morally wrong."

In Alaska, there are three bills to ban credit scoring. Rep. Harry Crawford and I introduced companion bills (SB 286 and HB 395) in early February. A couple of weeks later, Sen. John Cowdery changed his insurance bill (SB 320) to also ban credit scoring.

We introduced the bills because, like our Idaho colleagues, we believe credit scoring is a scheme masquerading as a fair business practice. Alaskans who agree with us need to chime in so insurance companies don't continue their hit and run on insurance consumers.

*(Sen. Kim Elton has served in the legislature for seven years. He's paid home insurance for 22 years and auto insurance for 32 years. Like other Alaskans, he can't find out what his credit score is. He assumes it is good but his premiums haven't dropped.)*

## Body Dissatisfaction Rampant

By Pam Webster, LCSW  
UAS Counselor

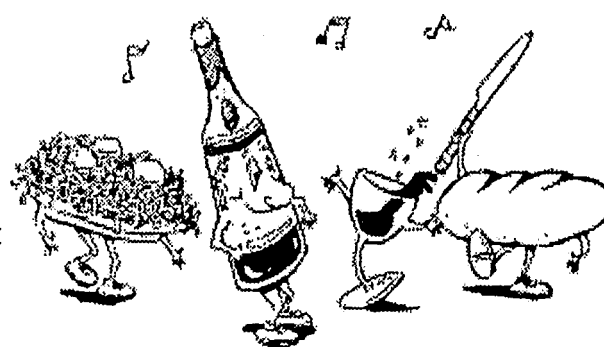
I was pleased that the editor ran the Marilyn Monroe photo in observance of Eating Disorder Awareness Week. If you haven't followed this issue, what's important to know is that Marilyn wore size 12-14 and was the celebrated beauty of her time. In the intervening years, Miss America's measurements have decreased as **American women have embraced a thin beauty ideal that is impossible for many (if not most) of us to achieve.** For every Camryn Manheim we see in magazine ads, on television, or at the movies, we see twenty women who look more like Cameron Diaz. Some girls and women are so focused on thinness that they will sacrifice health in order to achieve the desired look.

This usually starts with a diet, often one that is undertaken in an effort to improve one's life. The girl or woman loses 5 pounds and maybe gets some attention (which reinforces her dieting). She may become so good at dieting that she becomes anorexic and sees herself as fat when her friends and relatives plead with her to stop starving herself. Or she may ignore hunger for so long that she ends up bingeing (overeating) uncontrollably, then feels panicked and throws up (or uses laxatives or compulsively exercises) to "get rid" of the food. This behavior is termed bulimia. Many bulimic women are at a relatively normal weight, so their

medical condition is not apparent. What a lot of extreme dieters don't know is that **anorexia and bulimia can kill you.** Compulsive (or emotional) eaters, on the other hand, don't purge (do something to get rid of the food), and so become heavy due to their excess calorie consumption. They are at risk for rejection and prejudice in our fat-phobic society as well as for impaired health and mobility, and shorter lives.

The website of the group Anorexia Nervosa and Related Eating Disorders ([Anred](http://anred.com) for short) has a lot of useful information. Consider the following facts about eating disorders from the [anred.com](http://anred.com) website:

1. "Dieting is one of the most powerful eating disorder triggers for both males and females."
2. "Today researchers find that for every four females with anorexia, there is one male, and for every 8-11 females with bulimia, there is one male. (*American Journal of Psychiatry* 2001, 158-570)"
3. "Binge eating disorder seems to occur almost equally in males and females, although males are not as likely to feel guilty or anxious after a binge as women are sure to do."
4. "Research suggests that about one percent (1%) of female adolescents have anorexia. That means that about one out of every one hundred young women between ten and twenty are starving themselves,



sometimes to death."

5. "Research suggests that about four percent (4%), or **four out of one hundred, college-aged women have bulimia.**"
6. "Sometimes appearance-obsessed friends or romantic partners create pressure that encourages eating disorders. Ditto for sorority houses, theatre troupes, dance companies, school cliques, and other situations where peers influence one another in unhealthy ways."
7. "The sooner an eating disorder is treated, the easier it is for the person to recover."

If you wonder whether you have an eating disorder, or if you're trying to help a friend, there are some very helpful books and websites out there. *Making Peace with Food* by Susie Kano is a good place to start. You can order it by mail if you like, or get it through interlibrary loan. Again, check out the [anred.com](http://anred.com) website.

**Don't crash this semester in school or in life because your relationship with food was out of control.** Call 465-1298 for on campus help or Overeaters Anonymous at 789-8884.

## Zero tolerance policy will get zero tolerance from students

By Eric Morrison  
Whalesong Staff

What is the point of a zero tolerance policy at a university that is focusing on the retention of students? To me it seems like a silly proposal because in the long run the University will lose more students than it will gain.

The truth is that there probably is a problem that needs to be addressed, but is this the best way to go about it? I don't think so. One great thing that a university can provide for students is social commentary and ways to work on and through difficult issues that arise. One of the most difficult issues that students **WILL** have to address in their college careers is the temptations and use of drugs and alcohol, and how they are going to deal with it.

In regards to the zero tolerance policy, I think that students should have a fair say in how this policy goes about getting put into action. There are many creative and more beneficial ways to deter students from having drugs and/or alcohol become a regular part of their lives. In my three years at this university I have not once seen an informational seminar or movie about the hazards of drug and alcohol use to prevent such problems. There have been

*Continued on page 5*



Marla  
J.  
Booth

## Editor's Note

We were sitting in Red Robin, of all places, waiting, laughing and talking. Rev. R.J. Comma and I had had a few drinks and began a discussion that re-introduced a concept that would stick with me and pop up numerous times throughout the upcoming journey. It started with the Reverend's "existential bend." Basically, it came down to the idea that everything that happens in our lives is our own creation. That we can manipulate life around us, but only if we are open to our own centripetal force. Being the *Star Wars* fan that I am, I quickly likened his "existential bend" to that of "The Force" and "Jedi mind tricks." I declared then and there that I was gonna focus and concentrate on my own ability to maneuver the existence around me.

So, was my time in New York City a result of my task at hand or just influenced by a disruption in my circadian rhythms? Hmm...

New York City, it's the gateway to America and as of late it is also the heart of America. Four people from the Whalesong staff went to NYC together and individually each took a piece of the heart, but I would venture to say that each experience was extremely different. This was mine - my expectations were met and only slightly exceeded. Don't get me wrong, I had a blast! However, that is exactly what I had planned.

The fact that I actually met a guy, whose *nom de plume* was Jedi, was the perfect example of my ability to design the environment around me. Eric, one of my travel buddies, jokes by saying that I "fell in love with a Jedi," but did I really fall in love with a Jedi or did the Jedi make me think I fell I love with him? Or, did the Jedi (or me for that matter) make Eric think that I fell in love with a Jedi? At any rate, for a good portion of my time in NYC I was "one with the force."

Only a few times was I caught off guard and thrown for a loop. The most prominent time was my visit to Ground Zero. I expected dark, mournful emotions, melancholy sorrow and was fully prepared to soberly muse over the destruction. What I found as I took pensive steps closer and closer to the site was nothing at all what I had anticipated. First of all, we came upon it before I realized we were there.

My first vision was a mass of people. NYPD officers were directing the traffic of pedestrians all trying to get a better look around the construction workers who were diligently working on the street.

After seeing the viewing platform and discovering it was full for the day, we decided it wasn't necessary in order to take in one of our country's most devastating attack sites.

We walked around the block and saw netting, some in the patriotic colors of red, white and blue, draped over the buildings that surrounded Ground Zero. Construction grids and machines were evident in sight and sound.

My emotions were confused, but not mournful. I felt sorrow, but my heart wasn't heavy. My senses were busily trying to organize and realize the incoming transmissions. As Obi-Wan Kenobi advised, I was trying to "let go" and "feel the force." We continued to walk and came to the Sept. 11 memorial that was splashed with bright colors and finally - I got it!

The aura surrounding the site was one of survival. It was not a feeling of hopelessness, but one of hope. The atmosphere surrounding me was a strength to be reckoned with and full of pride. New York and America itself is rebuilding and moving on. Never before had the cliché "that which does not kill you makes you stronger" been so appropriate.

As we turned up the street to leave Ground Zero I paused to ponder the loss of lives and silently honored the memory of those individuals. I also saluted those construction workers, firefighters and police officers for the courageous and gallant positions they have chosen. I walked away with my head held high.

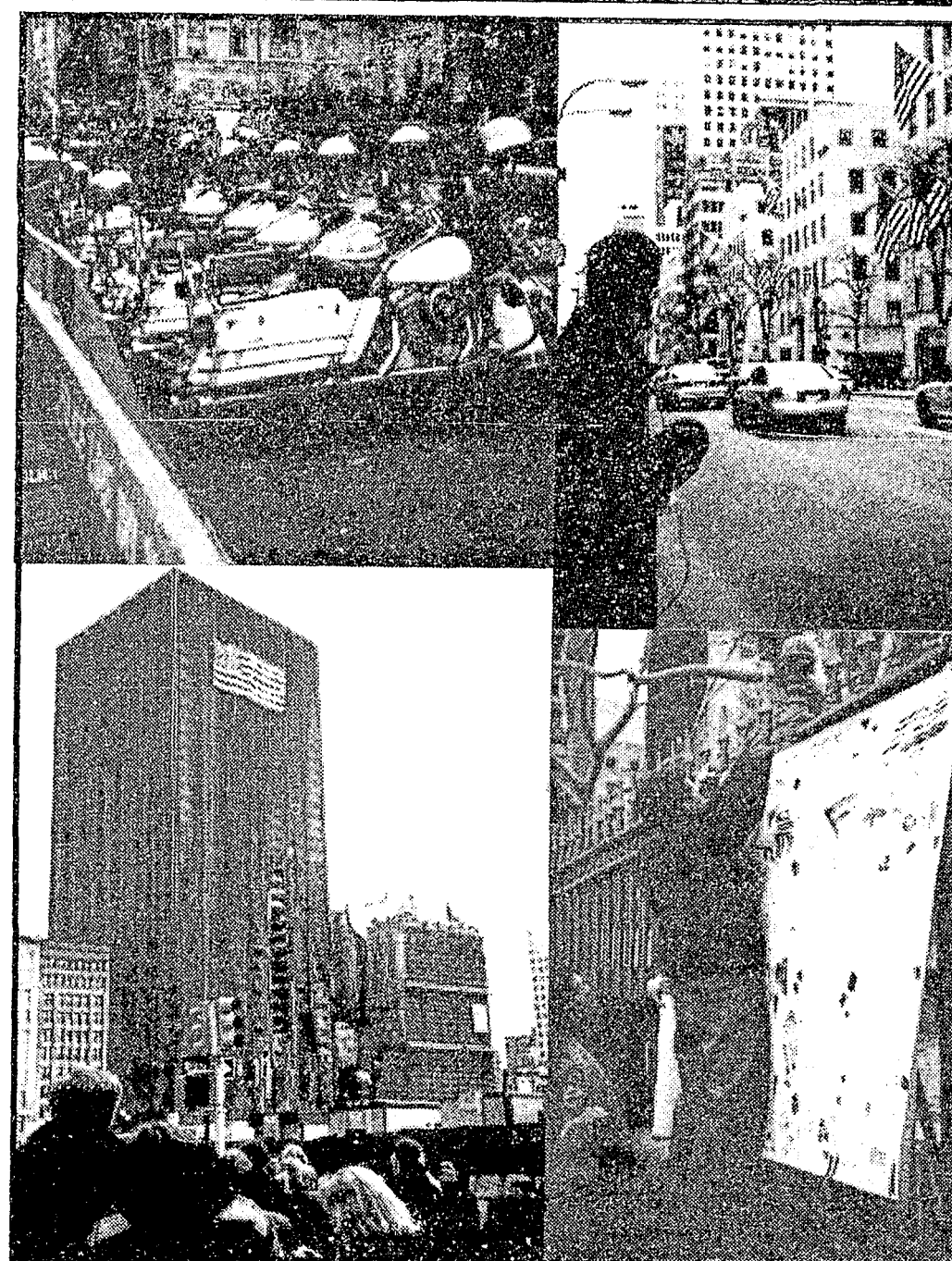
Personally, I think I got pretty good at developing my "Jedi mind tricks" in NYC but I'm far from a master. Let's just say I'm a padawan learner and I met a Jedi Master somewhere in the manipulation of my centripetal force. So, until we meet again, (I have to say it!) *May the Force be with you.*

### Zero tolerance continued from page 4

programs for people who get in trouble, but this is trying to fix something that is already broken, instead of learning how not to break something.

As long as there is student housing there will be problems with students using drugs and alcohol, that's a fact. Maybe a week long informational fair at the beginning of each semester could help teach incoming students the gambles they are making with their lives and their schooling if they decide to become involved with drugs and alcohol. I just don't think that it is right to alienate students for a behavior that will continue to happen even if the policy is enacted, especially when the school is trying so hard to recruit and retain students.

I am of the opinion that it is crucial to help someone when they need help, and by speaking and looking down at a student with this policy I believe that it will only cause anger and resentment. If the student gets kicked out of housing, he or she would be very likely to leave the school, and everybody loses out then. Let's figure out a way where everyone can benefit, and we can all live happily ever after.



Photos by M.J. Booth

The scene in New York City has some new attractions. (Upper left) NYPD bikes may not always be lined up this way, but they were for the St. Patrick's Day parade on 5th Avenue. (Upper right) An onlooker looks up 5th Avenue at the multitude of U.S. American flags and mentally salutes. (Lower left) One of several buildings affected by terrorism at Ground Zero. (Lower right) A patriot adds a banner to the many tributes at the memorial of Sept. 11, located next to Ground Zero.

## Surprise your Graduate

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Publishes Tuesday, April 30

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Friday, April 19



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GRADUATE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR MESSAGE (up to 20 words\*): \_\_\_\_\_



# FEATURES

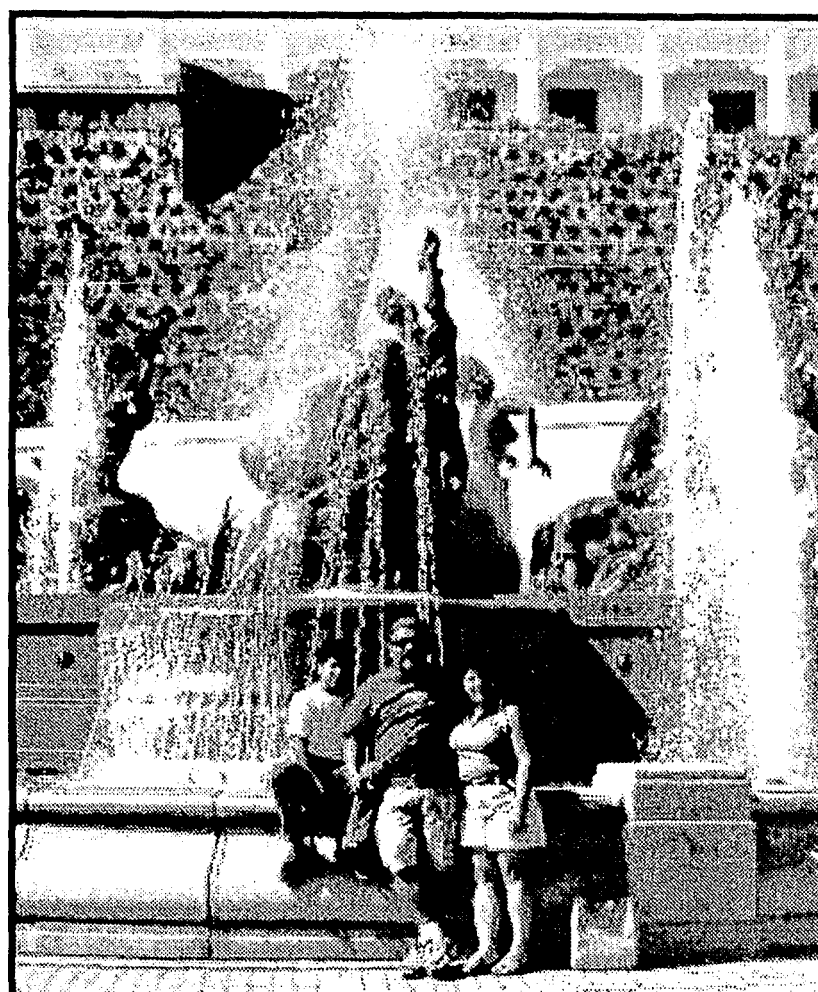


Photo by Kim Porter

The Cortes family pictured in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. The only member of Iris' family missing in this photo is her daughter Melissa, who is usually busy working in a local surf shop. With all Iris' free time, she is sure to have time to respond to an email if you would like to send her a message: [irismc@yahoo.com](mailto:irismc@yahoo.com)

## Life in Puerto Rico

By Kim Porter  
Whalesong Staff

Iris Cortes, former employee of Student Services at UAS, has returned to her home in Puerto Rico. After spending nearly two years in Juneau, the U.S. Coast Guard transferred her husband, Jorge, to Puerto Rico so they could return home.

Living in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, Iris is happy to have sunshine and warm weather every day. The occasional thunder and lightening storms help to cool the air, but Iris says the rain in Puerto Rico is nothing compared to the rain she encountered while she lived in Juneau.

Iris has decided not to jump back into the workforce, but instead to enjoy some time to herself and with her family. Her son, Ryan, has become very involved with baseball, the golf club, surfing, and skateboarding. Iris is enjoying her role as a "sports mom" and has become very involved with the activities.

While her family is working or attending school, she enjoys walking in the sunshine and shopping with her friends. Quilting is becoming a favorite activity, as well as some new hobbies. "I have not started to play tennis yet," said Iris. "But I bought some tennis balls the other day so I can start playing soon."

Iris greatly misses her jobs and friends in Juneau, but is happy to be home. "I had fun while I lived in Juneau," said Iris. "But I prefer my playa, sol, y toalla (beach, sun, and towel)."

## Dinner and a movie, anyone?

By Montgomery Mahaffey  
Whalesong Staff

If you'd like to try something a little different for a Saturday night, consider dinner and a movie at the Back Room in downtown Juneau. The Back Room, part of the Silverbow Inn and Bakery, is a funky location where anybody can see quality movies for a three dollar charge, plus five dollar food and drink minimum.

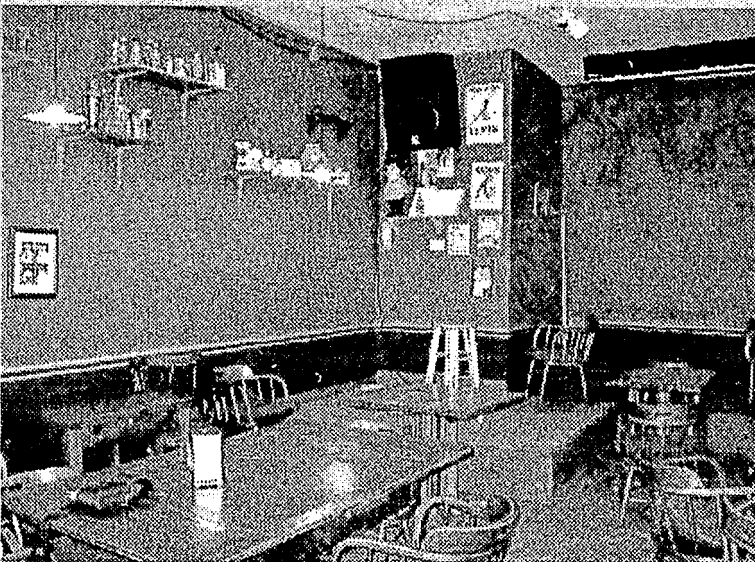


Photo by Montgomery Mahaffey

For the past three years, owners Jill Ramiel and Ken Alper have offered an entertainment fare to accommodate pickier tastes. Each month they show films that revolve around a certain theme; for example, March's theme was Academy Award "Best Picture" Winners. The last of this series, *The French Connection*, will be shown on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at eight o'clock. April's theme is celebrity hosts and the first of these will feature *The People vs. Larry Flynt*, hosted by Jennifer Rudinger of the ACLU chapter of Anchorage. This film will be shown on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> at eight o'clock.

Every month, the theme changes and you might see anything from the avant-garde to the mundane, but always off-the-beaten track from the usual Hollywood grind. So, give the Back Room a try. You'll find it sandwiched between the inn and bakery on Second and Main Street in downtown.

### Student continued from page 7

quite a change from her backpacker gypsy lifestyle, Roberts handled the transition smoothly.

"I miss my old life desperately at times, but traveling prepared me for it in a way," Roberts continued. "You make a decision about where you want to go, like Asia, and you have to commit, you have to prepare, and work extra hard to make enough money. Commitment and preparation are essential for what I'm doing now. It's time and stress management that's difficult."

Roberts doesn't see herself as any different from the younger students she's in school with, even though she has so much more experience than her classmates. She gives them credit for being much more knowledgeable and aware than she had been at the same age. But she still had a word from the worldly wise to offer.

"If you're here, finish it. Either make a choice and go for it or drop out and have fun," said Roberts. "Just don't settle, don't mope around and do okay, because you're just going to be miserable."

# Excursions

By Emily Wescott  
Whalesong Staff



I can't figure out why, but the Wearable Art Show on Feb. 22 was uninspiring to me. Most of the clothing reminded me of my senior prom dress. Maybe it's just not my thing - I do think that clothing is art, but there is so much bad art out there, you know? Nothing in the show shocked me. There were several standouts, however. A suit made of duct tape was stylish yet practical and there were some beautiful slinky see-through dresses that had very innovative designs. This guy in a tube dress was a hit. My favorite was the Elizabethan dress made up entirely of newspapers, and my boyfriend's was a green spandex dress with bright orange nubs all over it; it was titled, "Sea Cucumber."

Nevertheless, none of the exciting fabric was enough to keep him awake, and we left early to save him the hassle of pretending to go to the bathroom every 10 minutes.

On a good note, I really hope you went to see Robin Walz give his presentation on March 19 entitled, *"The Origin of Love: Hedwig, Plato and Freud on Sex and the Sexes."* Always an exciting and enthusiastic speaker, Robin talked about one of my all time favorite movies which I saw for the first time in his European Popular Culture class. *"Hedwig and the Angry Inch,"* available at a Blockbuster near you, is a must-see. The story centers on a young man with a botched sex change and his band, who aspire to be rock stars while battling Tommy Gnosis, the little punk who stole all of Hedwig's songs. I strongly recommend this movie for the next Friday when you're looking for a nice evening in.

In the next issue, I'll tell you all about the Tiny Trotters, the "little people" who played basketball for Juneau on March 22.

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### Upcoming Events

- The Silverbow's Back Room Restaurant will host "Bob's Shorts: InPublic," a showing of film shorts made by Alaskans, from 7 to 10 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26. If you are interested in films or make your own, go to his web site at [www.bobssshorts.com](http://www.bobssshorts.com), where Bob will hook you up with people around the state that can help you make them killer.
- It's not too late to celebrate Women's History Month and support the women in your life by learning something new about them and the culture in which they live. UAS is sponsoring a slew of speakers this month, including Lee Maracle, distinguished professor of Canadian Studies at Western Washington University. She will speak at 7 p.m. on March 29 in the Egan Library. If you have any questions about these events, contact Abigail Levin at 465-4937 or Kim Porter at 364-3225.
- Explore Antarctica with Nina Rajala at 7:30 p.m. on March 27 at the

Douglas Library. Part of the "Take an Armchair Adventure" series, this presentation will include slides and a presentation.

- Collect all of your dirty laundry and dishes and bring them to the City and Borough of Juneau's Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on April 6. The collection spot will be 5436 Commercial Blvd. by Costco, and yes, I was just kidding about the laundry and dishes. They collect substances like antifreeze, used oil, pesticides, transmission fluids, paint thinner, etc. They do NOT accept explosives, reactives like sodium metal, radioactive waste or contaminated soils. For details, call 780-6888 or visit the web site at [www.juneau.org/pubworks/hazwst.html](http://www.juneau.org/pubworks/hazwst.html).
- When will the ice break-up occur in Nenana? If you spend \$2 and guess right, you could win \$308,000, just like the winner of the Nenana Ice Classic last year. Enter to win until April 5 at Carrs, Hearthside Books, Percy's Liquor, Triangle Club, Breeze In, Foodland, the A&P Market and the ANB Camp No. 2 pull tab store.
- There is a flea market for scuba and outdoor recreation equipment from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 6. If you have scuba or camping gear, skis, bikes, kayaks, rafts, skateboarding gear, 4-wheeler equipment, fishing gear, or any other outdoor equipment you want to get rid of, bring it to 8345 Old Dairy Rd. on Friday, April 5 between noon and 7 p.m. The proceeds from the equipment sold will benefit S.E.A.S. (Southeast Aquatic Safety), Juneau's nonprofit volunteer dive rescue team. For more information, call 790-4665.
- Want to learn how to play Ultimate Frisbee? From 8 a.m. to noon on April 6 and 7, Community Schools is hosting an Ultimate Frisbee course, where students will learn basic skills and strategies through classroom time, videos and actual playing. This is the perfect way to shape up for the Juneau Summer Ultimate League that starts in May. To register, call 463-1717.
- The annual Bowl for Kids Sake happens on Saturday, April 27. If you want to start a team that will help this fundraiser, call 586-3350.
- Rob Dailey insinuated in the last issue that the Easter Bunny is not real, but I beg to differ. In fact, the Easter Bunny will be herding small children and goofy adults onto her lap on March 30 at the Nugget Mall. It's not too late! Cling to your comforting icons! Sit on that bunny's lap! Be happy and don't ever listen to Rob again.

## Not Your Average Student

By Montgomery Mahaffey  
Whalesong Staff

"I partied my way straight out of college," said Melissa "Lisa" Roberts about her initial attempts at higher education in her hometown of Asheville, North Carolina. "The last straw was the movie *Dirty Dancing*. I worked on the set for six weeks as an extra, and since it was an hour away from the university, I'd just spend the nights there. So I was on the set for six weeks straight instead of class. Like an idiot, I didn't withdraw from my classes and I don't know why. At 19, you don't think about such things."

Nowadays, Roberts both works and goes to school full-time, studying for a B.A. in business administration. When Roberts isn't to be found in class, in the library, or the computer lab working on a paper, one could likely find her doing the drink dance behind the bar at The Hangar on the Wharf in downtown Juneau. For the record, she's mixing, not drinking, the cocktails, keeping a flawless pace as she chats with the patrons at the bar. She's had the type of life journey between then and now that one would expect to read about in a novel titled, *Living on my Wits and Flying by the Seat of my Pants*.

After leaving school, Roberts "just hung out" and enjoyed a nomadic phase in her life. Using her bar/restaurant skills to get work quickly, Roberts lived everywhere from New York to Virginia to Florida. Yet, she didn't hit the official traveling phase of her life until her mid-20's. By the time she went back to school, Roberts had traveled on every continent in the world except Antarctica, and that's on the list.

"A friend of mine said at a party, 'Who wants to go around the world?' and I said, 'Me.' And that's pretty much it," said Roberts of her change of path. "I got bit by the travel bug. The whole traveling thing is just amazing. When you drop down in a culture you know nothing about, you have to discover it in your own way. It humbles you, but it makes you want more."

Around 1994, while Roberts was still in her vagabond phase, she ventured from Miami to Juneau, working two jobs in the summer and traveling in the winter. But around the time Roberts decided to stay in Juneau year-round, and "around thirty," she started to consider what more she wanted for herself. By 2000, she was enrolled in UAS full-time, and in the spring of 2001, she bought a house with her life-partner. Although this was

Continued on page 6



Photo by Montgomery Mahaffey

### Student and Community Submissions

Student and community submissions of art, photography, written work, and personal experiences are both welcomed and encouraged at The Whalesong. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, grammar, and taste, and must include a name and means of contact for verification. If the submission is to be returned, please include an address and daytime phone number. Send submissions to 11120 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801, [whalesong@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:whalesong@uas.alaska.edu), by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Moutant Bldg.



## Get out while you can

### Study Abroad with UAS tuition costs

By Summer Dorr  
Whalesong Staff

The typical college student is, well, poor. Students lack the *dinero* to cross borders in order to experience another way of life and feel as though they would be forced to postpone their degree if they were to get on the plane. Not entirely so, *mon ami*, UAS is ready and willing to send you away! Don't wait for your wrinkled spouse to take you to meet the Greek gods on Mount Olympus on your 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, go there next semester. UAS has student exchanges, which enable you to both soak up knowledge and drench yourself in culture.

The possibilities to enlighten your views on the world are numerous. Elizabeth Schelle, Director of Academic Exchanges, said "There is something for everyone, wonderful opportunities for students regardless of their major."

UAS is a member of the National Student Exchange Program (NSE), where over 160 colleges and universities in nearly every state participate. The International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) offers over 100 international colleges and universities to choose from, and the Northwest Council on Study Abroad (NCSA) offers term-based programs in countries from Greece to Argentina.

Bo Anderson, UAS student, who went for one term (three and a half months) with NCSA to France said, "It was the most academically challenging semester I've ever done, total immersion. I learned so much more because of that. The best part was that it was extremely international, there were people from all over the world there with me."

"Everyone told me before I went to Italy that it would be the best time of my life," UAS junior Eric Morrison said. "While I was there I didn't think it would be, but now as I look back I realize it's an experience that will be difficult to top."

Now that you are all pumped, to see the world, or even to leave Alaska without transferring, you're wondering about costs. According to the nifty flyer Schelle gave me, the NSE program resident students pay institute tuition and only pay for housing, meals and other personal expenses. ISEP has a single program fee each semester which is comparable to the cost of full-time tuition and fees, room and board at UAS, and the NCSA fees are set per program and average \$6,000 per term. To make the venture even more affordable, while on

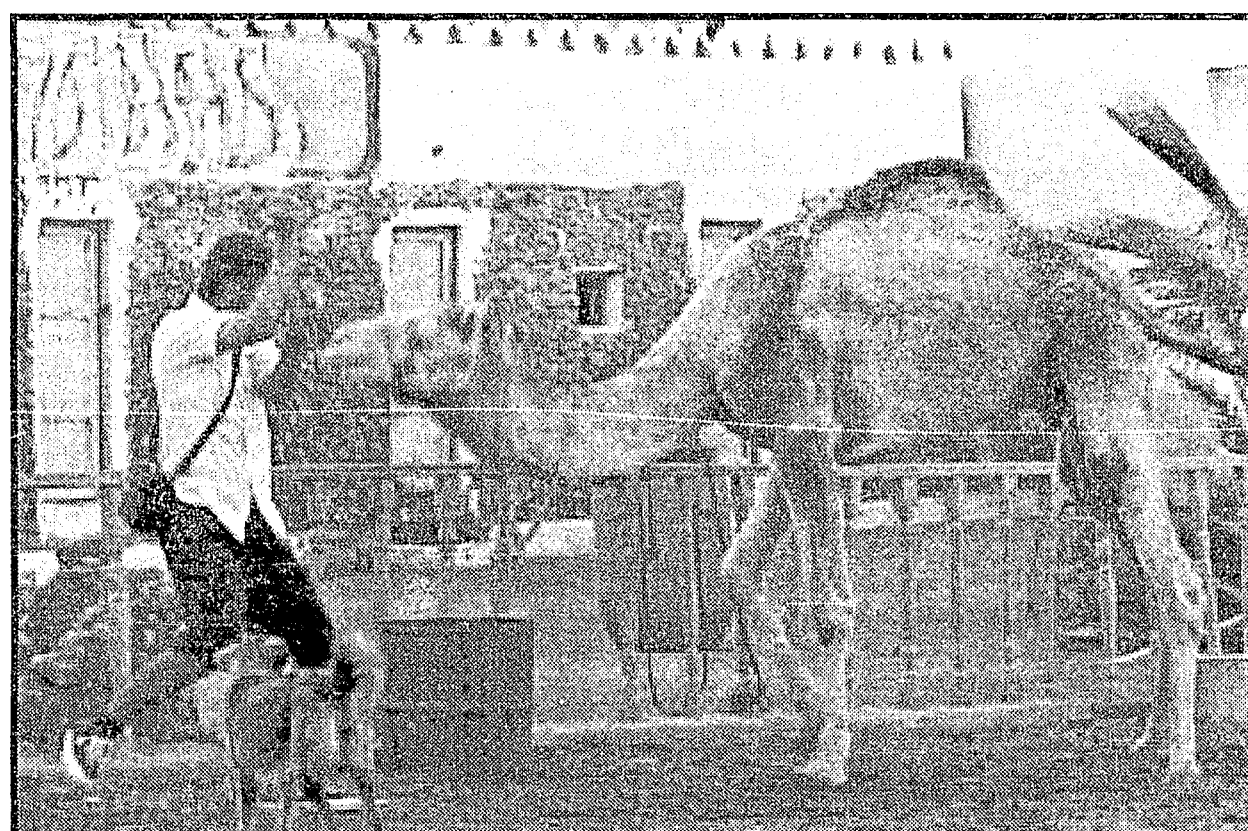


Photo courtesy of Bo Anderson

Bo Anderson has the experience of a lifetime in Egypt, as he is attacked by a camel. Study abroad programs offer many such priceless experiences for students.

exchanges, UAS students are still able to use their financial aid to fund the trip. Most financial aid, loans, and scholarships apply to the costs of these programs.

Open yourself up to new experiences and start planning a change of scenery now. Summer study abroad opportunities are still available as well as spaces for this fall and spring.

Schelle said that with the national exchanges, "you're like any other student." (Think transferring, without the hassle.) And international exchanges require "more discipline and

independence." Currently there is an average of eight to 10 international student exchanges. "I would love to be sending 25 to 30" each semester.

If you yearn for more details on how to leave on a jet-plane and surround yourself with fresh experiences, then visit the UAS website and click on the quick-link, academic exchanges. Or stop by the academic exchange library in the student lounge, which has brochures and information about all the places to travel to; just sit and imagine.

## Taking a bite out of the Big Apple

By Eric Morrison  
Whalesong Staff

There's nothing like New York City to change the way you look at the world. At least that was my experience as I traveled from the vastness of Southeast Alaska, being thrust into the heart of the concrete jungle of Manhattan to attend the Spring National College Media Convention.

Since Grade school I had had a phobia of going to NYC for fear of violent urban legends carried out by angst-ridden individuals. As I traveled towards the city that never sleeps my only concerns and expectations were to keep my hand on my wallet and my head on my shoulders. I figured everything else would take care of itself.

Four of us from UAS traveled on Jet Blue's red eye flight from Seattle, arriving at dawn in a world completely opposite of Juneau. Three of the four of us had never been to the Tri-State area and were force fed the maddening congestion of people and places as we traveled through Brooklyn's midtown Manhattan on the subway. The diversity of cultures, races and lifestyles melt together on the train like a pot of soup, boiling over across the city.

The buildings were intimidating and vast, scouring over me, giving a perspective of my place and size in the city. I was

mesmerized as we weaved our way through these juggernaut structures that parallel the mountains of Juneau on the other side of the spectrum. The noise and pace of life reverberated off the buildings, numbing me after traveling all night long. Relief and comfort blanketed me as we found our way to the Roosevelt Hotel where the conference was being held, and a

place that we would become a part of over the next several days.

After checking into the hotel and signing in for the conference, we dove head long into the city's current. Going to NYC for the first time was like going river rafting down a wild and scenic river, strapping on your life jacket and paddling through a series of rapids, and then pulling out before you're ready to. We were staying in an area where many famous attractions were but minutes away, and we had incredible access with its subway system, which became our veins to the heart of the city.

NYC presents extremes as in Kodachrome. The contrasts between rich and poor, beautiful and bland, sane and insane linger on every block. There's an equilibrium that made it difficult to feel anger, fear or love for either side. I found a deep seeded

comfort in the realization of my perceived normalcy. In one way I felt that I didn't fit in with NYC, but in another I felt I fit like a glove, for everyone fits in some way in New York.

This trip was such an incredible opportunity to learn. I had the opportunity to intimately learn about the madness of life in a true metropolitan, but also the chance to partake in a big time college media convention. Just like the city, the conference presented extremes, with intense inspiration to overwhelming boredom. Professionals from NYC's largest and most prestigious publications, as well as other companies and media guru's from nation wide gave seminars ranging from column writing, advertising to radio broadcasting. Generally the people who were prepared captivated their audience, while the unprepared had difficulty retaining their crowd. Little observations provided some of the best examples and lessons in New York; like it may take 30 minutes to catch a cab but they'll still get you to the show on time.

Tears welled up in my eyes as we left the big apple, because I felt as though time stood still for those few days. New York City is an unbelievable place that helped expand my view of the world and my life with its rich diversity, energy and unique culture. I now understand why the "I love New York" shirts are an icon.



Photo by some random New Yorker

Joe Buckley's gang at Rockefeller plaza (left to right) Marla, Eric, Summer, Joe and Rob.



Photo by M.J. Booth

The concrete jungle, Manhattan, viewed from the top of the Empire State Building.

## Ketchikan & Sitka

### Ketchikan Faculty Focus

By Wendy Gierard  
Whalesong Contributor

Assistant Professor of English Rod Landis is a Bread Loaf scholar in addition to a very active community member. He teaches the core composition and literature courses every semester, and rotates a speech class with upper-division and elective literature courses in addition to summer courses that explore themes such as "Gender and the Romantic Myth," or the development of the American short story.

Rod is the co-founder of the Ketchikan Humanities Conference, which has run for four years and inspired the UAS Humanities Conference that is now held in Juneau annually.

An accomplished local actor, this year he appears in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*, which serves as a centerpiece for the Juneau conference. "It's nice to be able to just act and not have to do all the conference organizing behind the scenes," Rod says.

One of the first faculty at UAS Ketchikan to explore distance education, Rod taught videotaped and audio-conference courses as far back as 1996. Since then he has taught distance-delivered courses regularly and next fall he will modify UAS' newest English course, Introduction to Literary Criticism, into a web-based distance offering. Ever thinking of community, Rod's innovation this year is the film series "VideoVersity." With state-of-the-art DVD and sound technology, the free monthly cinematic event has become quite popular and focuses on a different theme each semester. Guided by a faculty and staff steering committee, the series provides an opportunity for the public to visit the campus for a fun and educational evening.

### Sitka campus briefs

From Soundings

**Building:** Construction of the Phase III portion of the Sitka Campus' Student Resource Center is scheduled to begin in April and should be ready for occupancy by July 15.

**Safety:** The Safety Committee, chaired by Peter Nathanson, has identified several items needing attention. Most have been addressed and the committee is now implementing plans to meet safety and compliance regulations on the remainder.

**Jan Straley,** Sitka biology, is attending a NMFS meeting of investigators on Stellar sea lion projects in Anchorage this week

### Ketchikan campus briefs

From Soundings

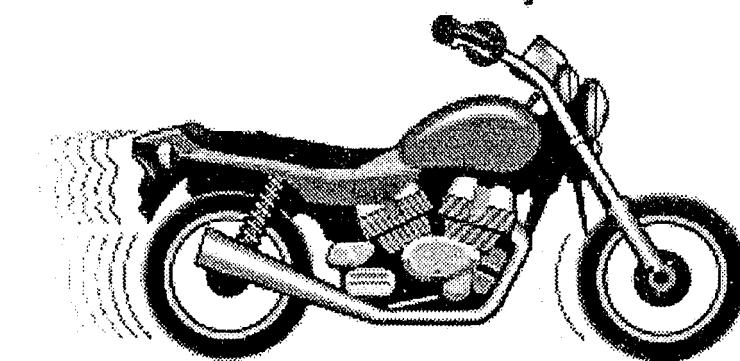
**Presentation:** Ketchikan and the US Forest Service will present a slide show at the Ketchikan Discovery Center April 12 on the annual Anthropological Site Condition Survey that involves a week-long field trip by students, faculty and Forest Service personnel.

**Women:** UAS Ketchikan and Women In Safe Homes are co-sponsoring the first Phenomenal Women of SE Alaska luncheon. Awards will be presented to extraordinary Ketchikan women and the history of women in Alaska will be highlighted. The March 30 even will be held at Annabelle's restaurant, 11:30-1:30. \$10 tickets are available at the door.

**Pricilla Schulte,** Ketchikan anthropology, was acknowledged as one of the manuscript reviewers for "Adventures in Fugawiland," a computer simulation in Archaeology 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition that was recently published. The workbook and computer program introduces students to the fundamentals of archaeological research by allowing them to simulate fieldwork experiences.



### Things Really Move In the Classifieds!



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### The Whalesong

is running its annual short story contest!

The short story Theme is:

**"What I did on my SPRING BREAK."**

-Fiction and creative non-fiction accepted.

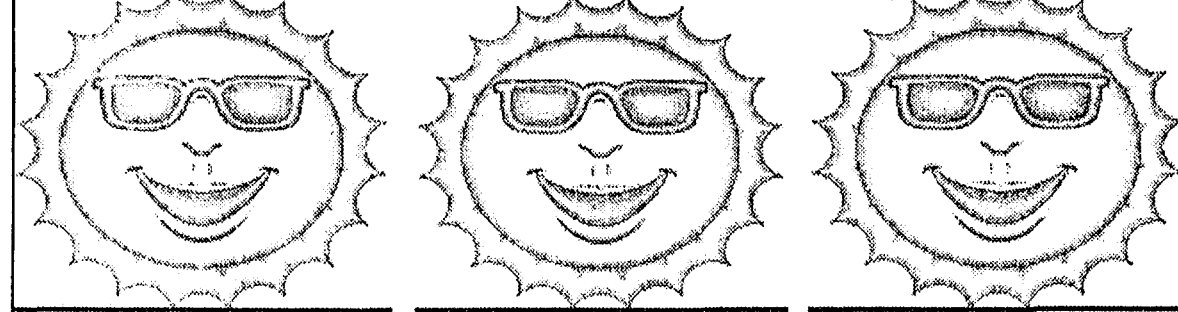
-Stories should be 1-3 pages, double spaced.

-All stories will be read by the staff and advisor of the Whalesong class. The winner will be chosen by a vote.

-Stories must be received by April 11th.

-Submit stories, with name and contact info *appearing only on a cover page*, to the Whalesong office, fax it to us at 465-6399, or e-mail it to: whalesong@uas.alaska.edu

The winner will receive a UAS sweatshirt, and the story and author's picture (preferably relating to the story) will run in the April 23 edition of the Whalesong.



Call us at 465-6434 or stop by our office, room 102 in the Maurant Building if you have any questions.



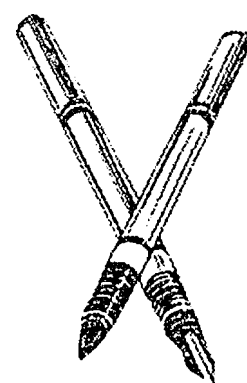
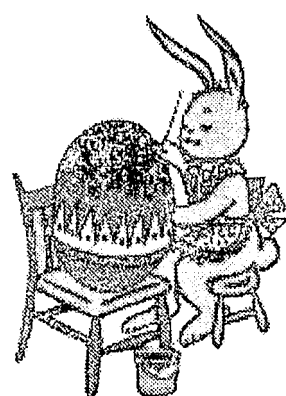
# Sports & Entertainment

## Preview



**Saturday, March 30th-**  
Hypnotist Christopher  
Carter, 8 p.m. SAC.

**Saturday, March 30th-**  
Easter Egg hunt for kids  
under 11, noon Mourtant  
Cafe.



**Friday and Saturday,**  
**April 5th & 6th-** UAS  
Humanities Confer-  
ence, Egan Library.

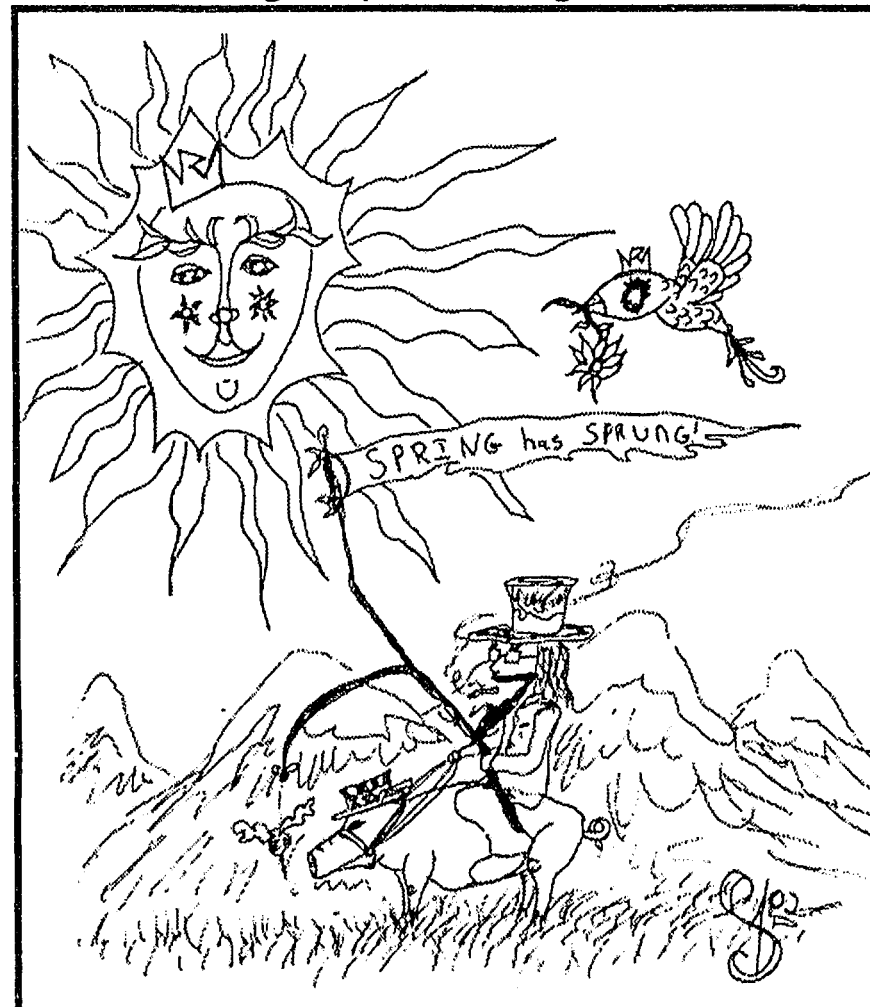


**April 7th thru 14th-**  
Juneau Folk Festival,  
the best show in town.



**Tuesday April 9th-**  
Be sure to check out  
the next issue of the  
Whalesong.

**American Dregs** By Alan Douglas Sucharzewski



## Horoscopes

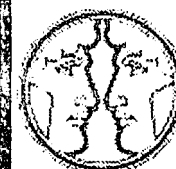
By Lasha Seniuk



**Aries (March 21-April 20).** Business progress is sluggish. Expect lengthy delays with documents or permissions. Colleagues and officials may now be overwhelmed by complex duties, outside instructions or competing interests. Stay focused, however. Authority figures will soon be evaluating performance. Restlessness and low vitality will fade. Private social or romantic overtures are now due. Expect fast invitations, rare proposals and subtle declarations of love.



**Taurus (April 21-May 20).** Dreams, intuitions and sudden glimpses of the future are now a strong theme. Expect complex emotions to soon be easily translated into wisdom. Arcas affected are authority figures, repeated business patterns and long-term family relationships. Traditional roles are changing. Watch for new ideas, creative concepts and fast improvements to now take precedence. Social alliances also will shift. Private information may soon trigger revised loyalties. Go slow.



**Gemini (May 21-June 21).** Contracts and business agreements will work in your favor. Expect managers or officials to no longer withhold goals, plans or regulations. Future aspirations and career potential now need to be resolved. Let friends and colleagues hear your thoughts. Watch also for a rare romantic proposal or ultimatum from a close friend. Areas affected may involve shared accommodations or past financial promises. Stay open: There's much to discuss.



**Cancer (June 22-July 22).** Friends and lovers may be reflective, sullen or emotionally distant. Remain cautious. Loved ones may ask for steady growth or an expansion of home commitments. Although promising, emotional progress is still unpredictable. Pace yourself, and expect dramatic reactions from loved ones. New financial information may reveal an unusual route to success. Watch past mistakes or lost paperwork for valuable clues.



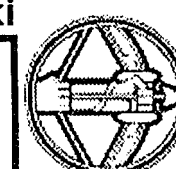
**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22).** Social relationships may now require extra sensitivity and planning. Watch for friends and co-workers to be moody or withdrawn from the group. Some Leos may also encounter an unexpected social disagreement. If so, avoid emotional triangles. This is not the right time to challenge the needs of others. Physical vitality is on the rise. Outdoor activities and new exercise regimes will soon bring general health improvements. **Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Business associates may now present unusual ideas concerning office policy or long-term work projects. Pay close attention to complex issues of power divisions and team loyalty. Many Virgos may soon find that new co-workers or business partners are given quick approval by authority figures. Avoid public disagreements. This is not a good time to challenge the tactics of work officials or managers. React quickly to subtle power struggles.



**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Yesterday's friends and lovers may now return. Expect past ideas, romantic invitations or business alliances to demand attention. Stay focused on the long-term picture. Quick agreements or sudden emotional decisions will not work to your advantage. Some Librans, especially those born between 1971 and 1982, may also experience a wave of financial disagreements. Others will not accept your ideas. Wait for approval before taking action.



**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Romantic and family relationships are accented. Watch for both lovers and relatives to be persuasive with their ideas or views of recent family events. Loved ones will be delightfully seductive and charming. Expect, however, that the bold or self-serving types will be obvious in their manipulations of the truth. Avoid being influenced by the empty charms of others. Stay alert to subtle emotional pressures.



**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Past memories and gentle reflections will have a strong appeal. Watch for love affairs and long-term friendships to now begin a period of nostalgia and emotional evaluation. Review past events to gain valuable insight concerning current romantic priorities. Do your best to slow relationships down and, expect sensuality to steadily increase. Old friends or lovers will also demand equal attention. Be generous with your time.



**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20).** Social and business relationships begin an intensive phase of rapid ideas and fast exchanges. For many Capricorns this is a time of steady social expansion and renewed business contracts. Carefully evaluate all options. In the coming weeks controversial work ventures will be difficult to resist. A close friend may reveal unexpected romantic information. Hidden attractions, health issues and emotional confessions are accented. Stay balanced.



**Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19).** A recent workplace disagreement may now require a delicate and consistent effort. Expect unusual business discussions or a sudden increase in detailed documents. Pay attention to payment schedules, financial promises or time commitments. The next few weeks will likely bring revised money expectations. Parent/child relations may be draining. Take your time. No amount of explanation will resolve a stubborn battle of wills.



**Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20).** Yesterday's promises or past social events may now become an important issue between loved ones. Expect others to be sensitive, mildly critical or self-absorbed. Stand your ground. This is not the right time to hide your opinions or simply accept the emotional needs of loved ones. Moody reflections will be temporary. Ask probing questions and expect social outlooks or romantic attitudes to dramatically change.

—Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

## An experiment with reality

By Summer Dorr  
Whalesong Staff

This issue, I have decided not to enlighten you with a review of the big screen, or small screen variety. Why? Because I didn't watch any! For the first time in months, okay years, I neglected my rectangular 27-inch, best friend.

Did I forget to pay my electric or cable bill? I can hear you smirk. Did my Tae Bo cassette get jammed in my VCR? No! While I was looking for my remote, I stumbled across this portal to another world. I asked a friend about it, and he said, "It's called a door, and it leads to the reality show called life!"

How could my life be as interesting as watching someone else's on TV? Life is only interesting when it's edited down to 22-minute segments! My life warrants no product placement! "Move towards the light," my friend said. "Enter through the portal. Talk to a real person about a real thing."

It all seemed a little too real to me. If I don't like a show, I can change the channel, but what if I get stuck in a really boring conversation? Or worse, what if I meet someone and, really, really like them? Can I just tune in at the same Bat-time, at the same Bat-channel and they'll be there? It is all too unpredictable! There are no trite plot lines to follow, no commercial to warn me the climax is coming, no narrator!

Against my better judgment I entered through the portal. It was really scary at first. When people talked, I mentally placed a 27-inch box around their head to make me feel normal. There were a lot of awkwardly long pauses in conversations before I realized I was expected to talk back. It took me a whole day to stop pressing my thumb to my index finger to get me out of situations I didn't like. As remarkable as it may seem, by the end of the second day I was becoming one of this real world.

I must admit, this new venture became quite enjoyable. I went to places that other real people gather. I actually made a connection with one of these real people. I engaged in conversations about the meaning of things and views on life. Okay, I know I'm sounding like a PBS documentary, but it was remarkable. It was like I was given control of my own network and I could have a show about any subject I wanted. I never wanted to turn it off—it became addicting! I was living my own *Real World*! I was cooler than that Mormon chick!

But, that week ended with no preview of what's going to happen next week. That's the scary part. Real life is cool, when it's someone else's roller coaster.



**Appearing Saturday,**  
**March 30 at the**  
**Student Activities**  
**Center-8 p.m.**

**SAC Members Free UAS/GENERAL - \$5**

## Names in the news

Compiled by Beth Gillin.  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

A would-be thief reached through the window of a limo and tried to snatch a \$15,000 diamond cross necklace from the throat of Liza Minnelli, 56, her publicist said Friday.

The limo was stopped at a traffic light in London Thursday night, said David Freed. Minnelli, seated alongside hubby of five days David Gest, 48, saw a hand coming toward her and mistook it for that of an autograph-seeker. As the unidentified man and others tried to open the door, the driver rolled up the window and zoomed away.

The honeymooners laughed it off, saying, "We're New Yorkers, so nothing scares us." **ANCHORS AWAY**

Tom Brokaw of NBC and Peter Jennings of ABC will anchor their evening news programs from Beirut, Lebanon, next week, where the Arab League is holding its summit. There was no immediate word on Dan Rather's plans at CBS.

*Continued on page 12*

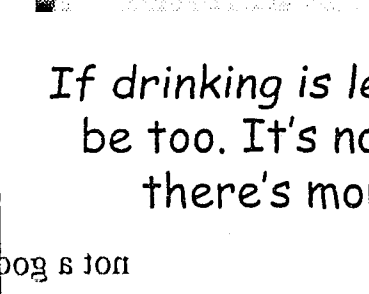
## Voice on campus poll

Do you think marijuana should be legal?



**Jeff Quick**

Yes, the fact is that there are no marijuana related fatalities, as opposed to drinking and driving that cause thousands of deaths every year.



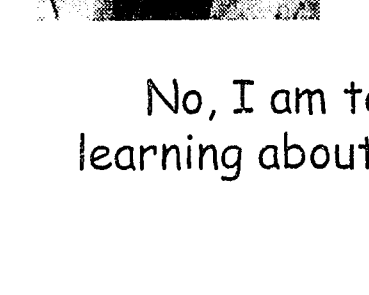
**Jessica Weed**

If drinking is legal, marijuana should be too. It's not a gateway drug and there's more violence related to alcohol.



**Levi Ott**

I don't know. I can't think of a good point for either of them.



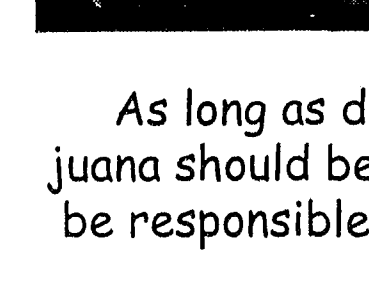
**Lisamarie Hunt**

No, I am taking classes and I am learning about effects. I don't want to be spacing out.



**Luis Silva**

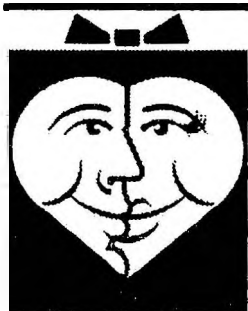
No, the use of marijuana as a narcotic will eventually outweigh the beneficiary uses of marijuana as a renewable resource.



**Monica Whitman**

As long as drinking is legal marijuana should be legal. People should be responsible. Both have negative aspects.





# Dr. Love and Deb Auchery

"I enjoy our relationship but she seems to be into herself more than us."

## Dear Doc and Deb:

I had been dating this guy for about two weeks and things were going good. Then I met his roommate and it turns out that I had dated him three years earlier. I forgot how much I liked him and now I want him. I need some help.

*Doc Says:*

You should not come between two friends--you will only cause problems. If you insist on being with the other, here is what I would do.

Since you have only been dating the other guy for two weeks it will be easy to break it off. Then you can wait a few weeks and get back in the other guys life, without being to obvious. Don't be surprised if you cause some major fireworks. I hope you get what you want.

*Deb Says:*

Well, we've determined what you think you want. What about the roommates? What do they want? Are you sure the guy from the

past still interested in you? You sound sketchy to me, how does one *forget* how much they like someone? My recommendation is that you leave both guys alone for awhile and see how your feelings for each are say a month from now. My guess is some other guy will pop up in the scene before then.

## Dear Doc and Deb:

I have not been able to get a date for some time now. I used to date all the time. I don't know what my problem is. Any suggestions?

*Doc Says:*

It seems you have tapped all the natural resources in your area. You need to expand your horizons and meet new people. Try doing something you have always wanted to do like square dancing or rock climbing. By being more active you will meet more people, which means you might actually get a date. Get off your ass and do something.

*Deb Says:*

It's probably just a down cycle. Ride it out and re-group.

## Dear Doc and Deb:

I am insecure with my girlfriend; I just don't trust her. I enjoy our relationship but she seems to be into herself more than us. How can I know her intentions and not end up her next victim?

*Doc Says:*

She sounds evil--watch out for her. Do not let yourself get attached to her. Let her wonder if your eyes are wandering. You might also try talking to her to see if the relationship is worth each other's time. Find out for sure; don't stay in limbo and wait for her to come to you.

*Deb Says:*

Well, you're never gonna get anywhere until you can trust her. Sounds like your girlfriend may have trashed some prior partners and this is an issue for you. The only way you are going to know her intentions is to ask her and trust your own feelings when she responds.

## Names continued from page 11

It is now unusual for network anchors to take their programs overseas. Two years ago, Jennings went to India, Brokaw to Russia. Rather has been to Afghanistan twice to cover the war on terrorism.

### DION'S HUSBAND SUED

Singer Celine Dion's husband and manager, Rene Angelil, is being sued by a woman who says he fondled her in the elevator of a Las Vegas casino two years ago and sexually assaulted her in her hotel room.

In a civil complaint filed in Clark County District Court, Yun Kyeong Sung Kwon, a Los Angeles resident and ordained minister of the Full Gospel World Church, and her husband, Ae Kwon, charged Angelil with assaulting her in March 2000. Attorney Marty Singer said Angelil paid a confidential monetary settlement in June 2000 to keep the charges from becoming public.

Singer said that was because at the time Angelil was battling cancer and Dion was undergoing difficult fertility treatments. In a statement, Angelil vowed to fight the lawsuit.

(c) 2002, The Philadelphia Inquirer.

## Gates Foundation continued from page 2

Many of the details have yet to be determined, such as how to ensure that the courses students take will be recognized for college credit. "It will have to be worked out on a state-by-state, almost a school-by-school basis," Vander Ark said. As with most Gates Foundation grants, grantees will receive planning and start-up money, but not enough to run the new schools. The other foundations involved in the initiative are Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Vander Ark said it might seem ambitious to take students who traditionally don't do well and place them in an accelerated program. For that reason, he said, some of the schools might begin in sixth grade so that by 11th grade, students would be ready for college-level work. And Antioch says students in its proposed program may spend up to six years completing both high school and an associate's degree. But the idea is that the promise of two free years of college will erase senioritis - the tendency of high-school students to slack off in their senior year - and motivate students for whom four years of college is a financial impossibility.

Vander Ark said he hopes many students who go through an accelerated program will take time off between high school and college to do community service here or abroad. The grants also will help the Gates Foundation and others explore whether this type of school can help states, including Washington, improve student access to college at a time when there's a shortage of seats.

The hybrid schools also could help determine what students do in states that set lofty goals for 10th-graders.

"Kids that are meeting state standards as they're defined in states like Washington should be and are ready to be doing college-level work in 11th grade," Vander Ark said.

— (c) 2002, The Seattle Times



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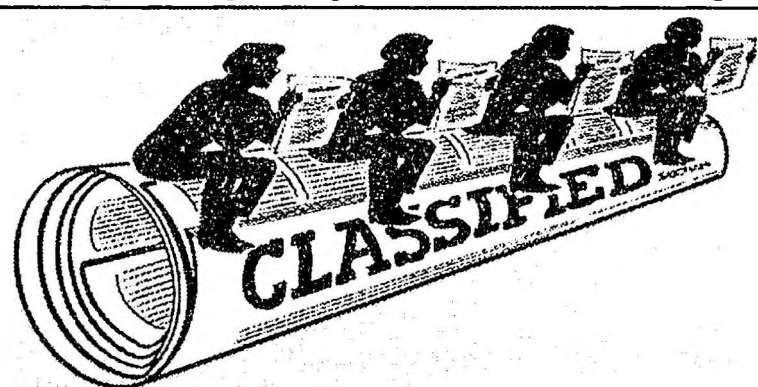
**Open on  
Thanksgiving day  
from 4:00 p.m.-1:30  
a.m.**

## Conference continued from page 1

Burial" by Theatre in the Rough and a presentation from a Zimbabwean journalist who was imprisoned and tortured because of his publications. This year there will be a full production of Tom Stoppard's play *The Real Thing*, performed by Ketchikan's First City Players. Following the performance will be a discussion with Director Taylor McKenna and Perseverance Theatre Artistic Director Peter DuBois.

"This year, for the first time in four, we're not going to stage a Humanities Conference in Ketchikan," said Landis, also an actor in this year's play. "But I'm not in mourning—bringing our actors, students, etc., to Juneau sounds like much more fun!"

In addition to the play and discussion about the play, there will also be a Chancellor's breakfast, panel discussions, break-out sessions, and a public forum.



**Happy Birthday Rob**, it's been a pleasure to have you on the staff. Too bad we won't be at the Standard bar, or kicking it in 711 like those days in the jungle.

-Whalesong Staff-

**Garage/moving sale** on Saturday April 6th, at 11450 Glacier highway, starting at 10 a.m. Lots of good stuff, so get there early and you could go home "krunk."

**To Kalei Shotwell P.h.D**, good luck on your comps, you make us all proud.

-Mad O' groupies-

**Looking for wheels** for a '88 Ford F-150. 15-16 inch 5 hole, hook me up I want them cheap. Leave message @ 465-6434.

## Classifieds

Classified ads are \$7 for approximately 30 words. Words of emphasis (bold, italics) are an additional 30 cents per word. Ads run for one issue of the paper. Ads are free to UAS students for personal use. Contact Virginie at 465-6434, fax at 465-6399, or e-mail at [whalesong@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:whalesong@uas.alaska.edu) to place an ad.